

**POLICY**

It is the policy of the Michigan Department of Human Services Bureau of Juvenile Justice (BJJ) to provide youths with social and life skills training.

**PURPOSE**

This policy ensures that youths are provided with social and life skills training to prepare them with the necessary skills to be successful, responsible and productive members of society.

**DEFINITIONS**

See JRG, JJ Residential Glossary.

**RESPONSIBLE  
STAFF**

Designated in the facility standard operating procedure.

**PROCEDURE**

Each facility is required to develop and implement standard operating procedures (SOPs) that govern the provision of social and life skills training to youths. At a minimum, these SOPs must contain the following requirements:

The facility director ensures there is lifeskill training for the duration of a youth's stay in the facility.

**Note:** Multiple lifeskill curriculum may be needed to cover the average length of stay.

**Curriculum**

Each facility will utilize a social and life skills curriculum that incorporates best practice. The curriculum:

- Is gender-responsive to the unique needs of males and females.
- Is based on the individual needs of youths using multiple methods of instruction.
- Provides the opportunity to learn through example and practice.

- Includes assessment/evaluation of skills.
- Ensures instruction is documented in treatment and education plans.

**Frequency/Documentation**

Social and life skills training occurs at least once a week in:

- Group settings.
- Classroom settings.
- Completion of skill attainment is documented.

**Staff Training/Responsibilities**

Staff receive training in the areas of:

- Life/social skills.
- Gender-responsive cultural diversity/sensitivity.
- Group facilitation.
- Effective communication.
- Problem-solving.
- Conflict resolution.

Staff (as role models) reinforce the social and life skills training through their interactions with staff and youths.

Staff ensure that a youth's peer interactions are constructive and reflect the ideals included in the social and life skills training.

**AUTHORITY**

Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.115a(1)(l)